



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV February 11, 2007 No. 6

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

Ray and I are in Henderson, Tennessee at the Freed-Hardeman Lecturships. The theme of the lectures is the book of Deuteronomy. We will be studying Deuteronomy in a couple of quarters on Wednesday nights. After the lectures I have heard, I

am looking forward to the study and sharing what I have learned about Deuteronomy this week. The article inside is from some thoughts contained in a couple of lectures I heard today. I look forward to being back with my church family at Etown this Sunday. See you then with a Bible in your hand and a smile on your face.



Let's continue to remember the family of dear sister Shirley Walkup who passed from this life last week and whose funeral was held this past Saturday. Amy Walkup has lost a beloved mother, and many of us here at Etown have lost a dear friend. I know that I have. I always looked forward to seeing her come into the building during the week, because I knew I would hear an encouraging word. I, like many others, will miss her.



In Deuteronomy 5:1 we read: "And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them."

Notice from this verse that Moses said "Hear, O Israel..." Moses is telling the people to listen. Listening is hard work. We like to talk more than we like to listen. But listening to God is more important than listening to anyone we might hear on this earth. Moses is telling Israel to listen.

But listen for a very important purpose. Listen that you might learn. I remember someone once telling me "Be quiet and listen and you might learn something!" We need to listen to God and learn. Romans 10:17 says: "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

But Moses also tells us to be careful to observe the statutes and judgments that they were to hear and learn. How we need today to be careful to do what we have learned. One version says "be sure to follow them." To learn and fail to do is to play the hypocrite. Jesus condemned hypocrisy in the strongest possible language (Matthew 23). Listening and learning is of little value if we are not careful to do.

One speaker at the lectureship captured the thought of Deuteronomy 5:1 with these words: "Learning begins with listening and ends with living." Have you listened. Have you learned? Are you living what God has spoken?

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

The past week has been tough on the church in Etown with the untimely loss of Sister Shirley Walkup and news of others dealing with serious health issues. I will run a tribute column next week in order to honor the life of Shirley Walkup. I am having

trouble thinking of all the things to leave out of such a tribute.



Lectureship week has been outstanding thus far with the opportunity to listen to outstanding men speak about the book of Deuteronomy. We will be studying this wonderful book on Wednesday nights during the 3rd quarter. I have been able to visit with many old friends and some former members of the Etown congregation. I saw Brother Flavil Nichols on Tuesday afternoon and he wanted to make sure that I expressed his greetings to all of you.



From the Email Bag

Listed below is some material that came to my email.

Motion Picture Code from 1930

The sanctity of the institution of marriage and the home shall be upheld. No film shall infer that casual or promiscuous sex relationships are the common thing ... These [seduction and rape] should never be more than suggested, and then only when essential to the plot. They should never be shown explicitly ... Crime shall never be presented in such a way as to throw sympathy with the crime ... Brutal killings are not to be presented in detail ... Revenge, in modern times, shall not be justified ... Mercy killing shall never be made to seem right or permissible ... Dances suggesting or representing sexual actions or emphasizing indecent movements are to be regarded as obscene ... Laws - divine, natural or human - shall not be ridiculed.

Motion Picture Code from 2007

Still waiting for it to be released. It seems as if anything goes these days.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. Listen to Him,
Deuteronomy 4:1-6

P.M. A Unique God, A Unique People, A
Unique Relationship, Deuteronomy 5:24

Some Worship Principles From Deuteronomy

Note: Most of the following thoughts are taken from a lecture entitled "Revitalizing the Local Church: Worship" delivered by Kirk Brothers on Tuesday morning at the Freed-Hardman Lectures. MG

There is no denying that we are in a transition period in many churches of Christ in our land today. One large church in Texas has announced they will add a Saturday evening service. At that service they will observe the Lord's Supper. That service will also have something else that has been unknown in the worship services of the churches of Christ. This Saturday night communion service will also have instrumental music. Some have speculated that this church's actions will embolden other churches to take similar steps. But when we decide to do that which we like, that which we cannot justify from scripture, we need to be called back to the basics when it comes to worship.

As Moses speaks to the people of Israel at the end of the forty years of wilderness wanderings, as he speaks to a whole new generation of adult Israelites, he reminds them of some basic principles of worship.

In Deuteronomy 4:15-20 Moses reminds them of the **WHO** of worship: "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day."

In Deuteronomy 8:19-20, Moses follows that admonition with the following warning: "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God." The **WHO** of worship is God.

In Deuteronomy 12:29-32 Moses tells us of the **HOW** of worship: "When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

The **HOW** of worship is God's way, not man's way. Moses had seen his own brother Aaron follow the

multitude to make an idol, the golden calf, and thereby pollute the worship of God (Exodus 32). They had added to the worship. Moses reminds them not to add to or take away from what God had instructed them with respect to worship. How we need to heed that same warning in our worship today.

Then Moses reminds the people of Israel of the **WHY** of worship. It was not because the people of Israel were a more righteous people than any other that God chose them to be His people: "Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people (Deuteronomy 9:4-6). Even here is all about God!

His love was the motivation in His choosing Israel: "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

Finally, the motivation for Israel to worship only God was loving obedience in response to what a loving God had done for them "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). Is this not why we should worship God? Again the **WHY** of worship is all about God!

The conclusion? Worship is all about God, not me! The who, the how, the why, of worship is God, not me. It is God not man. Can we then do as we wish in worship? Can we add to or take away from what God has given us with respect to worship? When we do what is convenient (moving worship to Saturday night) when we add what is not authorized (the instrument of music), and the real reason for doing so in the face of a lack of authority is we like it, who are we seeking to please? Is it ourselves and not God?

We need to get the focus off ourselves in worship and put it back where it belongs, back where God wants it, on Him not on us. "The focus in worship is not about the people in the audience or the people we want in the audience, but about God..."

News and Notes

W. C. DAVIS received the results of his tests and will require further treatment, possibly radiation. **JACOB GRINGLE** was in a skating accident and suffered a broken leg. **COURTNEY VERNON** had outpatient tests Monday. **STEPHANIE PACK** underwent outpatient surgery Monday at Hardin Memorial to remove scar tissue in her knee. **J MARTIN** was released from the hospital Friday. **DOROTHY BROTHERS** will return Saturday from her mission trip to Panama.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Doris Martin
Alyenne Bates	Tom Morgan
Neil Burden	Bonnie Payton
Shirley Devore	Marie Rose
LaVelle Dyer	Pansy Sells
Howard Gardner	Terry Showers
Bernard Gillim	Grace Spear
Faye Guess	Barbara Underwood
Roy Johnson	Lonnie Underwood
David Keister	Mary Walker
Diane Lewis	

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Justin Burg, Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards

Additional Prayer List: Darcie Bergeson, Gil Berry, Christa Bradley, Sue Cantrell, Sydney Dover, Ina Duncan, Thomas Elkins, Kevin Fox, John & Connie Gardner, Evelyn Gattis, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Tonya Harper, Greg Helm, Nicole Johnson, Art Lattanzi, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Mike McCormick, Terri McDonald, Donald Montgomery, Joe Pawley, Phyllis Pirtle, Stephen Pitcock, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Janet Rogan, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Betty Tucker, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Laura & Roy Woodcock

Seeds Needed

We are again collecting garden seeds to send to our brethren in Donetsk, Ukraine. These can be put in the mission box in the lobby or the church office.

Thank You

To my Christian family,
Thanks so much for the cards sent to me while I was sick. It was very much appreciated.

*In Christian Love,
Caroline Pence*

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family of Shirley Walkup, our sister in Christ, who passed away last Wednesday. Her funeral was held Saturday.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 2/11/07

Peanut butter

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER,** Saturday night, **February 10**, 6:00 p.m., in the South Wing. Men are to bring two dishes. CSG #1 will have clean up duties, CSG #2 will set up and decorate and CSG #3 will be in charge of activities for the evening. (NOTE: CSG assignments to 2006 service groups.)
- **2007 CSG's** to meet Sunday morning, **February 11**, immediately after morning services.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP,** Monday, **February 12**, at 10:30 a.m. here at the building.
- **5TH GRADERS & UNDER** Old Fashioned Family Game Night in the South Wing Sunday, **February 18**, after evening services. Bring your favorite finger foods and board games and join in the fun and fellowship.
- **HOMEcoming, June 3-6**

BENEVOLENT CENTER UPDATE JANUARY 2007

Food Center	117 families helped
Clothing Center	54 families helped

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE JANUARY 2007

Courses graded	379
New enrollees	76

OUR RECORD FOR February 4, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	128
Sunday Morning Assembly	177
Sunday Evening Assembly	114
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	13
Wednesday Bible Study	124
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$5,933

**Elder/Coordinator for February
Henry McAlister**

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: How was a red cord used to identify which of two twins had come forth first?

Last Week's Bible Question: What king sent his wife in disguise to find out what would happen to their sick child?

The correct answer is Jeroboam, King of the Northern Tribes, 1 Kings 14-1-18. Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Bloria Taylor, Mary Greene, Martha Cato (TN), Mary Walker and Betty Bray correctly answered the question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to rpack119@bbtel.com by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.elizabethtownchurchofchrist.com

Are You Part of the PARTICIPATION

Feb. 10 — Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 11 — Central Phone Call
Feb. 11 — CSG's Meet
Feb. 12 — Church Workers Workshop
Feb. 18 — 5th Grade & Under, Game Night
Feb. 18 — Youth Devo, Nowlands
Mar. 2-3 — FHU Bible Bowl
June 3-6, 2007 — Homecoming

Week 6
1. Exodus 10-12:20; Matt. 18:15-35
2. Exodus 12:21-14:4; Matt. 19:1-15
3. Exodus 14:5-15; Matt. 19:16-20:16
4. Exodus 16, 17; Matt. 20:17-34
5. Exodus 18, 19; Matt. 21:1-32

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